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CASEY LEAD (TOPS N026)
BY MIKE SHANAHAN
WASHINGTON (AP) -- WILLIAM J. CASEY SAID TODAY THAT AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HE WOULD SEEK TO REVERSE YEARS OF ''INSTITUTIONAL SELF-DOUBT'' WITHIN THE AGENCY.

''TOO OFTEN THE AGENCY HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DISCUSSED AS AN INSTITUTION WHICH MUST BE TIGHTLY RESTRAINED, STRINGENTLY MONITORED OR TOTALLY REORGANIZED,'' CASEY SAID. ''MORALE ... IS LOW.''

TESTIFYING AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITEE, PRESIDENT-ELECT RONALD REAGAN'S FORMER CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR SAID THAT ''LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE IN RECENT YEARS TO STRESS PUBLICLY THE CRITICAL ROLE WHICH THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MUST PLAY.''

''TOO MANY HAVE WORKED TO REDUCE THE FEELING OF SELF-WORTH OF INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS,'' THE 67-YEAR-OLD CASEY SAID.

AS A RESULT, CASEY SAID, MANY OF THE MOST COMPETENT INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS HAVE QUIT OR PLANNED TO RETIRE.

''THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ANOTHER BUREAUCRATIC SHAKEUP OF THE CIA,'' SAID CASEY, WHO BEGAN HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE CIA'S FORERUNNER, THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES.

INSTEAD, CASEY SAID HE WOULD WORK TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE AGENCY AS AN HONORABLE CALLING FOR YOUNG AMERICANS.

CASEY MADE TWO SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO DISCLOSURES THAT THE CIA OPENED MAIL AND COMMITTED OTHER VIOLATIONS OF ITS CHARTER DURING THE 1950S AND 1960S.

HE PLEDGED TO ''PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE WILL FULLY RESPECT THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.''

CASEY SAID IN THE PAST OBJECTIVE INTELLIGENCE ANALYSES PRODUCED BY THE CIA HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN IGNORED BY SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY MAKERS.

TO AVOID THAT, CASEY SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO PRODUCE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS EMPHASIZING ''HARD REALITY UNDISTORTED BY PRECONCEPTIONS OR WISHFUL THINKING.''

THE PANEL WAS EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND CONFIRMATION OF CASEY'S NOMINATION WITHOUT MAJOR CONTROVERSY.

AFTER MAKING HIS XXX PICKUP 5TH GRAF, N026

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